

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-37, and 39-40 are pending. Claims 1, 11-12, 15, 19, 21, 29-30, 32-33, and 37 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-21, 23-26, 28-31 and 33-36 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Joao (U.S. Patent No. 6,662,194). Claims 4, 9, 14, 22, 27, 32, 37, 39 and 40 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Joao. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Claim Objections

Claim 5 was objected to because line 9 contained the word "worldflow" when "workflow" was intended. In its original form, the claim properly contained the word "workflow." In responses to prior Office Actions, "workflow" was inadvertently changed to "worldflow," however the claim still retained the designation (original). The correction has been made, and the designation (original) is retained.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-18

Claim 1 is allowable as Joao does not disclose or suggest every element of claim 1. For example, claim 1 recites a method for workforce procurement and management comprising *"a resource management module comprising a work journal function for collecting information about an activity of an individual contractor on an ongoing project, the information describing the activity performed by the contractor during the ongoing project in which the contractor is hired."*

The rejection asserts that Joao's disclosure of a prospective contractor's current work schedule on other projects for checking availability of the contractor for a specific project anticipates a work journal function for collecting information about the activity of an individual contractor on an ongoing project. *See Joao*, col. 15, lines 23-33 and col. 33, lines 53-67.

Joao is directed at a method for providing recruitment information for hiring contractors. *See Joao*, Abstract. Joao mentions a work schedule that provides periods of employment on other projects for use by a prospective employer to see if the contractor has suitable availability. *See Joao*, col. 15, lines 30-33 and col. 33, lines 53-67. Joao states the employer may use the schedules to reserve, engage, and/or request the services of the individual. *See Joao*, col. 33, lines 53-55. Accordingly, these periods of availability are related to a work schedule of the contractor before the contractor is actually hired for a project. In contrast, claim 1 recites *the information describing an activity performed by the contractor during the ongoing project in which the contractor is hired.*"

Accordingly, for at least the reasons stated above, Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited references. As claim 1 is allowable, dependent claims 2-18 are also allowable for at least the same rationale.

Claims 19-36

Applicants submit that claim 19 should be allowable for at least the same rationale as discussed with respect to claim 1. As claim 19 is allowable, dependent claims 20-36 are also allowable for at least the same rationale.

Claims 37 and 39-40

Applicants submit that claim 37 should be allowable for at least the same rationale as discussed with respect to claim 1. As claim 37 is allowable, dependent claims 39 and 40 are also allowable for at least the same rationale.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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Reply to Office Action of August 9, 2005

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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